

C. Remarks

The claims are 19, 21 and 23, with claim 19 being the sole independent claim. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 19. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

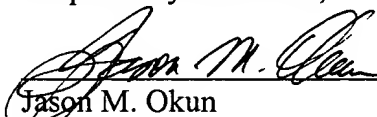
Claims 19 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,466,365 B1 (Maier). Claim 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Maier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,616 B1 (Takahashi).

Without acquiescence, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 19 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 20, which the Examiner deemed patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in allowable form.

Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and the subject application be passed to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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